



THE ROMANCE OF REVOLUTION

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THE ROMANCE ★ ★ OF REVOLUTION



number
three.

one dollar in person...

two dollars in the mail

intro.

It's been a year since I've put out an issue, and looking back so much has happened in that year of my life. But regardless, I have combined pen and paper, sweat and blood, and a huge part of myself to put this zine together over that time.

Zines are a chance for us to speak through our printed words, and reach people across huge distances on a personal level. They are our voice of dissent. Something tangible we can hold in our hands and read anywhere we go, they cannot be deleted by a simple button push or mouse click, they are something permanent, powerful, and inspiring. This stack of papers in your hands is my effort, an effort for change, an effort for reason, an effort of sincerity. I don't write because I am paid to do so, and I don't write because I stand to gain. I write because I stand to give. I write because this is my vehicle for change. In a society that would rather have us kept quiet, passive, and keep activist/punk/radical ideas from being circulated, this is my effort to change that society and make everyone's voice heard. Publications like Time Magazine, and U.S. News aren't going to change the world, they won't challenge the institutions that keep them alive. So who will? It is up to independent publications to speak for the unspoken, and to unleash to you the ideas/thoughts mainstream media is afraid to publish.

There is so much I'm tired of, so much I wish I could change. I'm tired of people's apathy, I'm tired of people watching television instead of talking to each other, I'm tired of no one giving a shit about anyone but themselves. I'm tired of no one having "the time" to do what is so important to them. So here is me trying my best to start with myself and change the world. Here is me. Here is thirty something pages of me giving a shit. I can't sit still and watch this world go by. Is it not our obligation to think about what we are doing, to become aware and try to improve upon our society (upon ourselves)? We must keep talking, reading, writing and struggling together. Communicating thoughts and ideas with each other is the most important part of the human experience.

Who knows, maybe I can't with all my life change a single thing. But how can I sit idly by and watch, and not participate? I cannot. I must speak up. I must create dissent. I want people to become inspired by ideas and knowledge. This zine is not here for entertainment, it is here to evoke thought, dialog, to inspire people to get involved, to think about who they are, and to re-evaluate themselves and their ideas. It's something I strive for in my life, a constant re-evaluation of the world and myself. How else are we to live in such a dynamic world? When we refuse to change, we decide to take the path everyone else is taking. We know exactly where that path leads, and that is stagnation. What you choose to do with this information is up to you. Whether I change the world or not, this is my effort, my attempt. Thanks.

Reading, Writing, Revolution
Tommy



Outro.

Some sort of entry on 5/11/00

It's weird sometimes, I think about how long it's taken me to put this zine together and it's been through so much. Through all the crazy shit that's happened to me in the course of a year, and no matter what I still manage to sit down and write this whole stack of papers into existence. Although my feelings and history of this year are not expressed in every line, to me it's kind of like a journal, a project I steadily work on through out all my activities. It's sometimes what wakes me up in the morning and says, "get the hell up, it's time to write!" It keeps me going. I almost don't want to finish it because it won't be there for me anymore, after it's done. What will wake me up in the morning and keep me up till all hours of the night? Something that is such an important part of my life is now leaving (I guess there is always the next issue to look forward to). It seems almost like it will die when its bound, stapled and mass-produced (yea, real mass-produced). For some reason the staples are like spikes, and its cover a crucifix. But I guess its for the better, hopefully I'll meet some new people through its distribution, and someone will get some sort of inspiration from these writings or what not. Maybe by some freak chance my life and ideas could make a change. My writings and efforts could have a direct impact on someone's perception of life. I guess that's why I keep writing. To make a difference, to try and encourage people to think. Its been a year now in creation, and I would mind if it took two.

**"Disobedience is the true foundation of liberty.
The obedient must be slaves."** Henry David
Thoreau

**"The strongest bulwark of authority is uniformity; the
least divergence from it is the greatest crime."** Emma
Goldman

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If there is anything you'd like reviewed be it CD, Records, your zine, or whatever, send it on in to:

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I would be happy to review anything, but please no racist or hateful material, I promise it wont get a good review. Or if you would like a copy of my band's (Liquid Sick) Cd send 4ppd to the same address. Or hell, just write to say hi and we can talk about whatever you want. It'll be fun.

Distrobution If you would like to distribute this zine, ten copies of "The Romance of Revolution #3" are eight bucks, 50 cents a copy, and 3 bucks postage. If you would like more than that please get in touch with me. This zine is one dollar in person and two dollars through mail.

Send in your writings! I would love to check them out. Send in rants, art, poems, articles, photos, or anything else you'd like to submit. Including a Self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) would also be a good idea along with your submission. And maybe if you don't have something to submit you could just write me anyway. Its all about talking and communication, its all about meeting people and discussing things that matter, so with that in mind write, write, write.

Places to get your zines reviewed:

Alternative Press Review c/o CAL Press, PO Box 1446, Columbia MO, 65205
Factsheet Five, PO Box 170099, San Francisco CA 94117-0099
Heart Attack, PO Box 848, Goleta, CA 93116
Maximum Rocknroll, PO Box 460760, San Francisco, CA 94146-0760
Punk Planet, PO Box 6014, E. Lansing, MI 48826
Tail Spins, PO Box 1860, Evanston, IL 60204

Thanks

Nicole "Dilapidated zine", everyone who contributed to this issue, my dad for continued support throughout this zines construction, my mom, Angie, Brandon, Jason, Andy from Skwurly, Justee, The Workers Solidarity Movement (WSM), People for the ethical treatment of animals (PETA), all the kids who keep our local punk scene alive, Kerri, Jimmy (deathrow), Los Mocos, Kyle B., Praxis zine, and anyone else who contributed to the production (spencer). And to everyone who purchased this zine and read it. read. get active.

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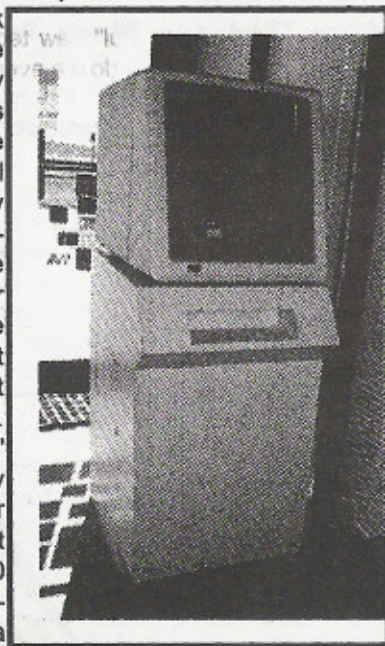
Self-Service Technology

Intro.

Technology in the service industry, and technologies integration into our society is an important topic, and one largely taken for granted. With the introduction of yet another major self-service technology the "self-checkout" for retail and grocery stores, we are forced to think of the implications self service technologies entail. What is self-check out? What does it mean to us? Who should decide if this new technology should be implemented? And how does this effect our communication?

What is self checkout?

The self-checkout system is an automated retail checkout lane which is operated by the customer and not by the employee. The self checkout lane is being substituted for the express lane at over 1000 retail stores nation wide. As you walk through you scan your items over the barcode reader and insert your money into the machine. Your change comes out and you bag your items and leave without saying a word to anyone. All this while the self-checkout security system runs vigilantly. A security camera is in place and records every move you make to ensure your "customer integrity", while weight sensors on the table next to the scanner ensure that all items have been scanned and not just "passed over" the scanning box. In essence the "self-checkout system" is in place to make shopping allegedly faster, easier, and to improve customer service. These self-checkout machines are placed at over 1000 locations nation wide. The self-checkout system was released in 1997 to a few select retail grocery stores who would "give it a chance" and see how the customers react to it. Since that time many other grocery stores and a few retail department stores have integrated the self-checkout into their stores. Some of the stores carrying the new self-checkout system are;



by Fred Woodworth. Jen Angel and Theo Witsell come together to produce what is in my opinion one of the best zines I've read in awhile. (\$3 ppd/ Fucktooth/ Po Box 353/ Mentor OH 44061)

I'm Johnny and I don't give a fuck #3 / 5.5x4 / 106 pgs

Andy from Submission hold, writes this personal zine, not too far from the likes of the classic comet bus. There are some seriously funny/ironic stories in here worth the read. This is a distant period in Andy's life that he recalls with fairly good accuracy. Almost every story he some how ends up "hammered" and waking up somewhere strange. To quote the intro to his December entry "Booze makes some people do very stupid things. I am one of those people!" One of his friends gets beat up by this gang called the "Dirt devils" and so (totally drunk) Andy decides he will single handedly kick all their asses and goes to fight, but when he is totally beaten senseless, he wakes up with no wallet, and no memory of what had happened to him. You can only laugh at that kind of stuff. With a title like "I'm Johnny and I don't give a fuck" you have to go with your instincts. (I'm Johnny and I don't give a fuck/ PO Box 21533-1850/ commercial dr. / Vancouver, BC/ V5N 4A0 /Canada / \$3ppd)

Avow #8 "We must get down to the heart of the matter" / 8.5x5.5 / 40 something pages. Very interesting. A mix of Art/Poetry/Punk Rock/Political/Personal type material. This zine is very well rounded in subject matter, and Keith Certainly is not afraid to discuss his personal feelings, or even his own failure with the reader, that's nice to see. Looking back possibly the most memorable article is a letter from his friend Alex who writes 4 pages of personal thoughts on what success is. Is success having a well paying job? Or going to college? Or having a nice car? very thought provoking. But one of his more obvious and powerful topics is that of advertising and consumer culture. Basically, advertising is here to sell us things, obviously things we don't need, because if we needed them, we wouldn't need to be told to buy them. So there is this notion of wanting you to be unhappy to be able to sell you things to "fill your void" and "make you happy". The essence of this argument is that capitalism and marketing feed on insecurity and sadness, they make money off of our unhappiness and lack of personal fulfillment. How wonderful can a society be that is based on keeping its populace unhappy, and insecure? (Avow c/o Keith Rosson/ PO box 832/ West port WA 98595/ \$2 ppd)

Under Oath #3 "Question Everything" / 8.5x5.5 / 20 pages.

Not as large as I thought it would be, but what is there, is good. Basically several rant style articles on the typical issues: Racism, sexism, animal rights and anarchism. A list of proctor and gamble products toward the end. I did enjoy the short book reviews, but I wish more was said about the material in the books. Although short much was said in these pages. Kinda like an "intro zine". If that makes sense? Like if you just put in a CD and listened to the intros to all the songs, but not the whole song. Still an Awesome zine. \$.75ppd/ (Under Oath / 1# Patterson Cres./ Carleton Place Ont / K7C 4H2 / Canada / Brock_2@hotmail.com)



zine reviews

Contrascience #6 / 8.5x11 / 60 pages

Fantastic Political zine, with tons of cool articles. In this issue Bryan talks about the US prison system, the corruption and oppression involved, and gives 12 pgs of educated writings and plenty of good sources. Also articles on "The timber industry" by Theo Witsell, interviews with punk rock teachers, and a really well written article on the US arms trade and where our tax dollars really go. Well-written, well-researched material provides a good read for anyone interested in activism/ political/ social type discussion. I really enjoyed reading this zine. And its always wonderful to see a zine with no ads! (Contrascience/ PO Box 8344/ Minneapolis MN/ 55408-0344/ USA)

Screams from inside #6 / 8.5x11 / (about 30 pages, no page numbers were listed)

It's been awhile since Carissa put out an issue of SFI, but here it is. A political/ personal zine leaning to the political. She has several good articles, "capitalism", "The IWW", "Media", and what political zine is complete without the educated rant on scrutinizing religion. An interesting article on love, and some thoughts on her job as an elementary school teacher and social worker, provide some interest. I enjoyed the zine, very heart felt and a cool article on "crime". (Carissa Screams/ 23 Washington Terrace/ St. Louis MO 63112)

Fragments #1 "Disintegration" / 8.5x11 / 20 something pages

Wonderful. No ads, no reviews, no interviews, just strait up Political rant zine. I say rant, but really there is a lot of facts, quotes, references etc, that really solidify the material. I believe issue two is out or at least about to come out, entitled "power". It's defiantly on my reading list. The Author starts on the subject of revolution but then goes through, Utopia, Religion, Apocalypse, nuclear war, consumer culture, and even the LA. Riots. With no breaks or pauses, the material flows through a good 25 pages. I learned a lot from this zine. If I can put down a zine after reading it and say to myself, "damn, that really makes me think" it's worth \$2. That means it kicks ass. (Fragments/ PO Box 5370-362/ Santa Ana CA 92704/ USA /\$3 cash only.)

Fucktooth #24/Spectacle #5 split issue "Thoughts on Technology" 5.5x8.5 99pgs With two of the best political zine writers around doing a split issue, how could it go wrong? This is really fantastic and informative. First of all its cool because even though it's a split issue there is an overall theme to it (technology) and both authors (Jen, and Theo) contribute along with other columnists to the discussion of who regulates technology? Should all technology be implemented? What are the effects of certain technologies? Very in-depth (as much as can be said with only 100 pages on the subject) on questions technology raises. Interview with Tony Wong discussing civil disobedience, and animal rights. An interesting although not thoroughly convincing article on computers

Kroger, Brookshires, King Soopers, Winn Dixie, Super One, and many others. The main companies involved in production and distribution of the system are NCR, Symbol, PSC, Production Solutions, and SASI (Stores Automated Systems inc.) As far as future implementations of the self-checkout system goes, the

"IT'S HOW WE'LL ALL CHECKOUT OUR GROCERIES IN THE FUTURE."

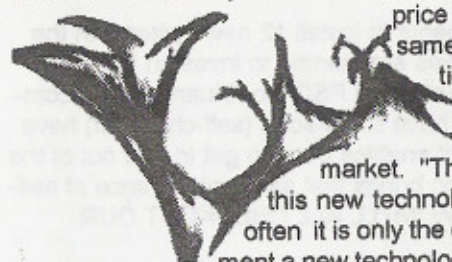
--Vice president of (PSC) Marketing Stuart Itkin

Kroger company has already made arrangements to install 12 new systems in the next 6 months, and more companies are starting to invest in the idea. Vice President of Worldwide Marketing, at PSC inc. Stuart M. Itkin commented, "Shoppers at stores that have the U-scan (self-checkout) have quickly embraced the system b/c it enables them to get in and out of the store faster. U-scan express which brings that same convenience of self-service to the supermarket is HOW WE'LL ALL CHECKOUT OUR GROCERIES IN THE FUTURE."

What does this mean to us?

All this "wonderful" new technology is coming in so quickly who has time to ask why? Or do we even need this? Would resources be better spent somewhere else? The question is what does self-checkout and all these new service based technologies such as "pay at the pump", automated service, automated teller machines (ATM's) Drive through banking, vending machines every block, drive through fast food technologies, and the myriad ocean of other little gadgets that have replaced human services in the past 50 years mean to us? What this means is that our labor market is turning more service based, the only jobs left will be for workers to stand and communicate with customers and maintain the technologies that will soon take their place in 5 years. These new technologies also indicate a steep turn toward a more unskilled labor market, which is exactly what they want. We need only know how to run and operate the technologies that service the customer. It takes little or no skill to push buttons all day and work the machines that take your place. Forget direct service, we now have "more efficient" indirect ways. What all this means is that there will be less and less jobs open for skilled workers and many more open for the unskilled worker to simply learn his/her skill in a day or two of training, and receive the lowest wage. What this does is supply the capitalist "free market" with a flood of unskilled workers to be used at their expense and exploited by the system and discarded when yet another new "wonderful" service technology comes out. For example over 200 years ago right before the start of the industrial revolution, England had a primarily textile based economy. In the area of

Nottinghamshire majority of the population worked in the textile factories as skilled weavers. A small town where everyone knows everyone, now entered large frames and steam engines that could produce a better quality product at a faster rate. This meant the value of skilled labor had dropped significantly, and now skilled weavers who received a high wage for their skill and experience were to only operate the machinery and be paid as unskilled button pushing slaves. And what a surprise their positions were instantly filled with women and children to work for half the



price and double the hours! This is the same age old story of the implementation of technology and increase in human suffering, and movement to an incredibly unskilled labor market. "The question", should we implement this new technology? Is not asked enough, more often it is only the question of "how" we should implement a new technology. But what does this mean to our privacy? The self-checkout along with the automated banking machines and even pay at the pump services are equipped with the ever watching eyes of the video recorder. Everywhere we turn it seems we are being watched by one corporation or another. At your favorite fast food restaurant, at the bank, at the movie rental store, and pretty much any corporate retail store. You are watched at work, and even in the bathrooms. Your every mundane movement tape recorded for posterity/security (mockery?). Are all those cameras and "security" measures meant to make us feel "safe"? Do you feel safe?

Who decides if technology should be implemented?

It seems an important question to ask "who is deciding what new technologies are used and which ones aren't, and for what reason"!? The people who decide what technology is implemented and what it is used for are the same people who paid to have the technology built and who paid to advertise it and create its needThe corporate elite. Who else?! It is not the inventor who decides that his invention should be used and is ethical and ready for distribution. It is the corporations that pay his/her salary and will give him/her grants in which to bring the creation to life.

So who should be deciding the integration of new technologies? It makes sense that the people who will be buying and who will be using the technology should be the ones who decide "if" it should be integrat-

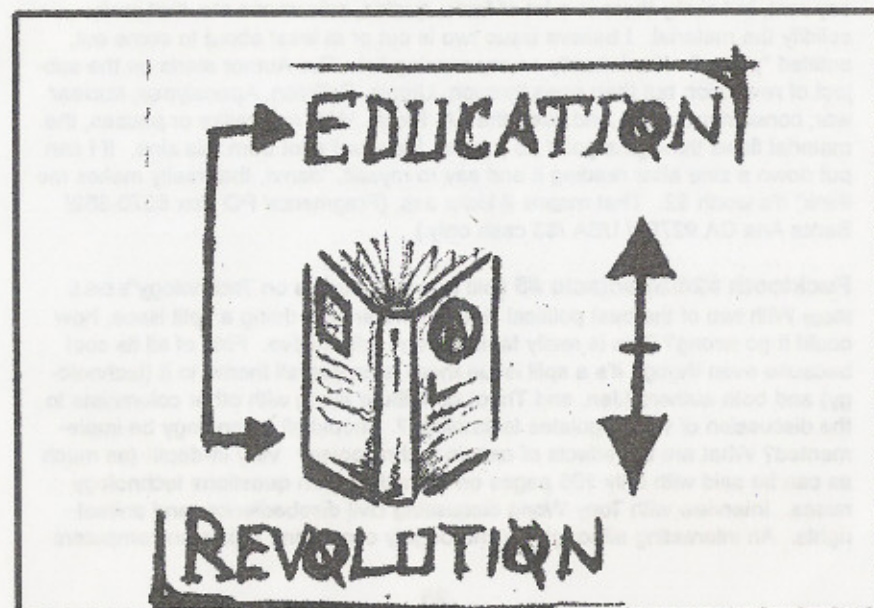
What is the point of education?

It all made me think about who I was, where I was going, and why I am pursuing education through both school and independent means. To be knowledgeable is to know the world and its workings. I wish to know the world, do my best to understand it and help make a change for a better one. In the spirit of educating myself I have chosen to attend college, and commit myself to alternative studies outside school as well. I believe both are important. Learning is a part of life, but if you don't care, and you don't think, and you don't keep re-evaluating yourself and the world around you, you won't truly experience your life, and you will never find deep meaning in anything you do.

It also made me kind of bitter and sad to think of all the lives spent doing things they hated. What has our culture done to education? What kind of value do we place education? All the time and effort put into work and projects that were created without spirit, heart, or interest. These ideas of why we have education are really discouraging. Are schools just put there for people to come in, get their letter grade and leave? Or can more be Seceded if only the people took the time to think and care about what they were doing. If education is truly, only about achieving some letter grade and diploma I want nothing to do with it. I value education, not grades. I value learning, not authoritarian instruction.

There are no uninteresting subjects

only uninterested people.



education and self determination.

The other day I was up at the college in my physics/astronomy class working this really neat project that measures the size of the earth just like the Greeks did way before Columbus the fool thought he knew how big the earth was. Anyway, toward the end of the lab, my partners and I were all getting ready to leave and head home when Karl says to Trisha and I how "miserable" college is and how he would rather be working because "at least there you get paid to sit around and not do what you want" and "at school you have to pay to sit around and do things you don't want to". Karl would rather be working than going to school apparently (by the way Karl works at a "container store" and says he is "highly trained"). So he looks toward me for agreement and support in his brilliant new theory he's so proud of but alas he gets only a look of concern and sympathy from me. At this point I thought I could just blow him off, chuckle, and bolt for the door leaving him to his little ideology of "more work less school". But then he comes back with another statement of "I mean, that's all we're here for right? To pay our hard earned money for school, get a degree, so we can get a job and make more money right?" Ouch Karl! Four years of working a job you hate just so you can pay your way through a school you don't like, get a degree that means little or nothing, so ultimately you can end up with a bigger job which you hate and despise going to everyday of your life? To this I was astounded to hear articulated from someone at this school who actually said what was happening to so many people there. It really made me think. At the time I just said something like "Sorry, not me" and walked out. But what's really concerning to me is all these people out there like Karl who are working some shitty job they hate just to pay for classes they fail or bitch about in an attempt to get a degree for a job that they will hate even more in the future. Why do this to yourself? Why put yourself through such a horrible experience? Why do things you hate your whole life? Most of the kids at the college go to school for that "magic" piece of paper that says they are allowed to be some sort of corporate business monkey for the rest of their life. Could I live my life like that? Maybe Karl can spend his life doing things he hates, but I don't think I can. If he doesn't want to be at school he should leave and pursue what it is he loves. By staying somewhere he doesn't want to be he is cheating himself. Why choose such unhappiness? That day walking down the halls and outside I wondered just how many people at the college like me were there because they liked what they were doing or were really interested in studying and learning, and took classes they thought were neat, and not ones that were "required" for some stupid degree. Not many at all. My conclusions were sad-denying.

-ed. However this is not so. The media and corporations along with a thousand ad campaigns and TV commercials will create a need for the new technology stressing its "wonderful" uses and sets a standard for wealth. For example: You are wealthy or at least moderately "important" to the economy and society if you have a VCR, 2 TVs, a computer and a cell phone. This is all that matters they would have you believe. Forget the fact that you are starving and have a beaten up car that needs repair, your child's dental bill to pay, and a house payment due in a week! It seems too often you see people living off welfare struggling with a hungry family, but their techno gadgets come first, TV, VCRs, a nice car, cable TV, "without cable what would we do"?? eat maybe? Live maybe?

The corporations are the ones running the show, there is one thing all their decisions will be based on when integrating new technologies, could it be, morality?, real need, betterment of humanity, aid to the impoverished,? Try none of the above. One thing is all they care about and is the basis for every decision they will ever make, PROFIT! We can NOT trust them to make these decisions for us. The governments needs are not our needs. The capitalist need is not our need. So why trust them to make our decisions?

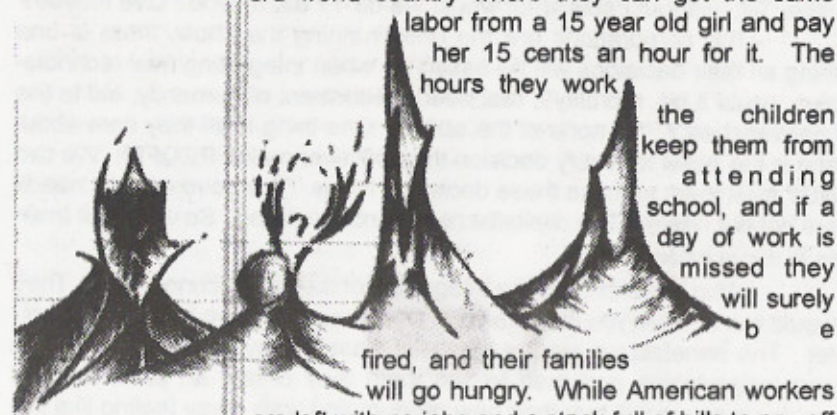
Who benefits from the integration of the new technologies? They would like to have you think its you. Of course I think we know a little better. The benefactors are the capitalist class. They pump out new toys and technologies and then to sell them they create an artificial need inside us so we will buy their new product and walk away feeling like the technologically enlightened elite themselves. Think about it, there is no reason to advertise things people really need, because, they will find them without advertising. The only reason advertising exists is to sell you something you don't need. For example: who do you think will benefit from the implementation of the new self-checkout? They would like to have you believe it was you. "Oh it will scan your items and that's it, happy shopping". Sorry to once again shatter that dream but the people benefiting here are NCR, and PSC the retail stores using the system, Kroger, Brookshires, and all the others. Their motivations are profits, not your needs. Think about it, a new self-checkout system comes in, another employee goes out. These corporations are only using the self-checkout system to cut labor costs! With the new express lanes that don't need an employee to work them, that employee can hit the streets, and if they don't like it or anyone there has a problem with it, there a hundred other unskilled workers waiting to take their place. These companies are using machines to cut labor costs so they don't have to pay anyone to work checkout machines. I'm sure the president would be quite happy if "its how we'll all check out our grocers in the future".



He!!!! No more labor costs, only security cameras to bust some poor guy trying to steal a bottle of aspirin for his sick wife that cant find work because every store in the nation now runs on "self-checkout" and her job stolen by the same machine that will now arrest her husband for stealing her medicine.

We give these corporations our lives, everything we own and what do we get in return? Low wages, poor benefits, no organization, no job security, and then when the town and the people have been raped for all they are worth they close down the factory and "outsource" to some

3rd world country where they can get the same labor from a 15 year old girl and pay her 15 cents an hour for it. The hours they work



are left with no jobs and a stack full of bills to pay off and mouths to feed. The CEO makes about 100 times what the average worker for the company makes. What kind of balance is this? While the working class bust their ass 40 hours a week the capitalist (CEO) sits back in his leather chair sipping martini's getting a back rub and raking in the capital! He sits back and takes from the people their lives and sells them back the same shit they just made for 10 times the price!

Communication.

But along this technological journey to our own doom where has communication gone in the service industry as a result of the new techno gadgets in every retail store? Consultant Jerry Morton for NCR says "The self-checkout concept will win more acceptance, he believes when retailers begin looking at it as a customer service toll rather than as a way to cut labor costs". First of all the corporations will NOT stop looking at the self-checkout as a way to cut labor costs because that would not be in their interests nor would it be profitable to ignore such profit potential. Second, how is the self-checkout system to be used and looked at as a "customer service" tool when in fact it is not. NCR is only trying to once

The CNT believed that when the workers took over the means of production and distribution this would lead to "the liquidation of the bourgeois state which would die of asphyxiation." History teaches us a different lesson. In a situation of dual power it is very necessary to smash the state. No ruling class ever leaves the stage of history voluntarily.

In contrast to this the Friends of Durruti were clear that, and this is a quote from their programme 'Towards a Fresh Revolution', "to beat Franco we need to crush the bourgeoisie and its Stalinist and Socialist allies. The capitalist state must be destroyed totally and there must be installed workers' power depending on rank & file committees. Apolitical anarchism has failed." The political confusion of the CNT leadership was such that they attacked the idea of the workers siezing power as "evil" and leading to an "anarchist dictatorship."

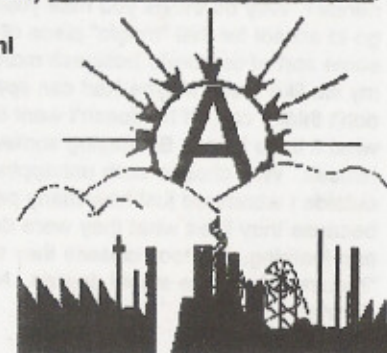
The syndicalist movement, organised in the International Workers Association and outside it, still refuses to admit the CNT was wrong to postpone the revolution and enter the government. They attempt to explain away this whole episode as being due to "exceptional circumstances" that "will not occur again." Because they refuse to admit that a mistake of historic proportions was made, there is no reason to suppose that they would not repeat it (should they get a chance).

Despite our criticisms we should recognise that the syndicalist unions, where they still exist, are far more progressive than any other union. Not only do they create democratic unions and create an atmosphere where anarchist ideas are listened to with respect but they also organise and fight in a way that breaks down the divisions into leaders and led, doers and watchers. On its own this is very good but not good enough. The missing element is an organisation winning support for anarchist ideas and anarchist methods both within revolutionary unions and everywhere else workers are brought together. That is the task of the anarchist-communists.

Alan MacSimóin

This article originally appeared in "Red and Black Revolution" republished with permission by The (WSM) Workers Solidarity Movement. They can be contacted at: <http://flag.blackened.net/revolt/wsm.html>

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and the land. After that it believes that the state and all the other institutions of the ruling class will come toppling down. They do not accept that the working class must take political power. For them all power has to be immediately abolished on day one of the revolution.

Because the syndicalist organisation is the union, it organises all workers regardless of their politics. Historically many workers have joined, not because they were anarchists, but because the syndicalist union was the most militant and got the best results. Because of this tendencies always appeared that were reformist. This raises the question of the conflict between being a trade union or a revolutionary anarchist organisation.

Syndicalists are quite correct to emphasise the centrality of organising workers in the workplace. Critics who reject syndicalism on the grounds that it cannot organise those outside the workplace are wrong. Taking the example of anarcho-syndicalism in Spain it is clear that they could and did organise throughout the entire working class as was evidenced by the Iberian Federation of Libertarian Youth, the 'Mujeras Libres' (Free Women), and the neighbourhood organisations.



SPAIN

The weakness of syndicalism is rooted in its view of why workers are tied to capitalism, and its view of what is necessary to make the revolution. Spain in 1936/7 represented the highest point in anarcho-syndicalist organisation and achievement. Because of their a-politicism they were unable to develop a programme for workers' power, to wage a political battle against other currents in the workers' movement (such as reformism and Stalinism). Indeed syndicalists seem to ignore other ideas more often than combating them. In Spain they were unable to give a lead to the entire class by fighting for complete workers' power.

Instead they got sucked into support for the Popular Front government, which in turn led to their silence and complicity when the Republican state moved against the collectives and militias. The minority in the CNT, organised around the Friends of Durruti, was expelled when they issued a proclamation calling for the workers to take absolute power (ie that they should refuse to share power with the bosses or the authoritarian parties).

again make you think (and in the process make themselves believe) that this new technology is for the aid of the consumer, when it is not. How will this effect communication and customer service in the stores? The people will come in speak to no one, get their food, scan it, talk to no one, pay and then leave, like a ghost town as the overseer sits in a box and monitors the cameras leeringly making sure no one is stealing, as he himself is recorded. This is neither communication or customer service, who are they trying to fool? Once again technology builds an impenetrable wall in which communication is crushed. Television, video games, and even cell phones annihilate real communication between people. They serve to separate neighbors and alienate families. I am not saying they do not have their good points of communication, but the kind of communication they are promoting is that of impersonal, alienated, babble. For example: Cell phones may keep people in touch in situations such as while driving, or at the store, or in the movies, but what happens to the people they are with? Real communication to the person next to you is substituted for artificial impersonal communication to someone somewhere else who is also ignoring someone at the same time. Communication is important to us as people and we must recognize when it is being taken away from us.

Outro.

There are very important points on technology, its use in the service industry, and its effect on labor. When new technologies come out we need to ask ourselves these kind of questions, because if we don't we will certainly, blindly, obediently, obliterate our own lives. I don't have an answer to the "machine question" and I'm not sure how much good any sort of boycott would do. Its extremely important we think about these things as they apply to us and the world around us. No one will stand up for us, we have to take that initiative ourselves.

Sources:

- The NCR homepage (www.ncr.com)
- The PSC homepage (www.pscnet.com)
- Dallas Morning News "Self-checkout & the u-scan"
- Some inspiration from "Fucktooth/spectacle split"
- Some inspiration from Neil Postman's "Technopoly"

Existance?

-by Brandon Blair

Broadening the mind is something a lot of people have a problem with; I myself admit difficulty in expanding my views in some areas. In doing so however, I came upon the idea that the Human Race is a very pathogenic and scary thing. Don't get annoyed yet, I've changed my views on that as well...But I figured I'd give you some insights on consistencies that need to be worked on for the better of our, dare I say it, existance?

First off, a topic which nearly everyone has an opinion on. Anarchy. The gift of full freedom; and the ability to do what one wish-

persons. Why weren't these people ready? Blinded by hormonal impulses? Unable to control their primal desires in a "consequence free" environment? No matter what the excuse, sexual assault is one of the most humiliating and defiling crimes someone could go through. How does this relate to Anarchy? In order for Anarchy to work, we need to begin caring for other people, and expanding beyond our own wants and desires, to accomodate the lives of others. It can be so hard to do that nowadays, when our own desires tug so strongly to get what we want. We must work on showing compassion and responsibility, as much as I hate to say the word (grin) for without any accountability

"We need to begin caring for other people, and expanding beyond our own wants and desires, to accomodate the lives of others"

es, hindered only by the boundaries of one's own conscience. Is humankind ready yet? My opinion is no. We can see small examples of failed instances in every day life. What happened during Woodstock 99 this year, when thousands of music fans gathered to witness what was to be a fun and carefree environment, was horrendous. A perfect example of the result freedom can have on unprepared per-

or trust, Anarchy would be just as some picture it: A flaming, death ridden hell.

My next topic: The Earth. Unlikely sounding topic eh? I have come up with major objections to the treatment of our planet, and here are a few of my arguments. Though we rarely stop and think about the subject, the Earth has provided humankind with a way

Norway, Britain, Bulgaria and Portugal. A message of support was received from Uruguay.

Things were not looking good for the re-emergence of anarcho-syndicalism. In Eastern Europe the Stalinists allowed no free discussion, strikes or free trade unions. Certainly not anarchist ones! In the West massive subsidies from the US and the Catholic church went to tame unions controlled by Christian Democrats and Social Democrats. Meanwhile Russia did the same for their allies who controlled the French CGT, the Italian CGIL and others. The IWA, in its weakened state couldn't compete for influence. In the late 1950s the Swedish SAC withdrew from the IWA. There was now not a single functioning union in its ranks.

It staggered on as a collection of small propaganda groups and exile organisations like the Spanish and Bulgarian CNTs. Some wondered would it live much longer. But suddenly in 1977 Franco died and his regime fell. The CNT blossomed. Within a matter of months its membership leaped from a few hundred activists to 150,000. [Problems later developed within the CNT and a split occurred which left us with two unions whose combined membership today probably does not reach 30,000, though this is still a significant number.] The growth of the CNT put syndicalism back on the anarchist agenda. The IWA now claims organisations which function at least partly as unions (in Italy, France and Spain) and propaganda groups in about another dozen countries.

Outside the IWA are syndicalist unions and organisations like the 16,000 strong SAC in Sweden, the OVB in the Netherlands, the Spanish CGT, the Solidarity-Unity-Democracy(4) union in the French post office, the CRT in Switzerland, and others. Some are less anarchist and more reformist than others. Say what we will about them we must recognise that syndicalism is today the largest organised current in the international anarchist movement. This means it is especially important to understand them.

SOME PROBLEMS

Anarchist-Communists do have criticisms of their politics, or more accurately lack of politics. Judging from their own statements, methods and propaganda the syndicalists see the biggest problem in the structure of the existing unions rather than in the ideas that tie workers to authoritarian, capitalist views of the world.

Syndicalists do not create revolutionary political organisations. They want to create industrial unions. Their strategy is apolitical, in the sense that they argue that all that's essential to make the revolution is for workers to seize the factories



not forget that both Connolly and Larkin were influenced by the IWW. Connolly was an organiser for their building workers union in New York state and Larkin delivered the oration at Joe Hill's funeral.

DECLINE

The success of the Bolsheviks did great harm to the workers movement outside Russia. Many were impressed by what was happening in Russia, Communist Parties sprang up almost everywhere. The Bolshevik model appeared successful. Many sought to copy it. This was before the reality of the Soviet dictatorship became widely known.

Nevertheless the syndicalist movement still held on to most of its support. The real danger was the rise of fascism. With the rule of Mussolini, the Italian USI, the largest syndicalist union in the world, was driven underground and then out of existence. The German FAUD, Portuguese CGT, Dutch NSV, French CDSR and many more in Eastern Europe and Latin America were not able to survive the fascism and military dictatorships of the 1930s and 40s.(2)

It was at the same time that the Spanish revolution unfolded, which was to represent both the highest and lowest points of syndicalism(3). More about this below.

The Polish syndicalist union with 130,000 workers, the ZZZ, was on the verge of applying for membership of the IWA when it was crushed by the Nazi invasion. But, as with syndicalists elsewhere, they did not go down without a fight. The Polish ZZZ along with the Polish Syndicalist Association took up arms against the nazis and in 1944 even managed to publish a paper called Syndicalista. In 1938, despite their country being under the Salazar dictatorship since the 1920s, the Portuguese CGT could still claim 50,000 members in their now completely illegal and underground union. In Germany, trials for high treason were carried out against militants of the FAUD. There were mass trials of members, many of whom didn't survive the concentration camps.

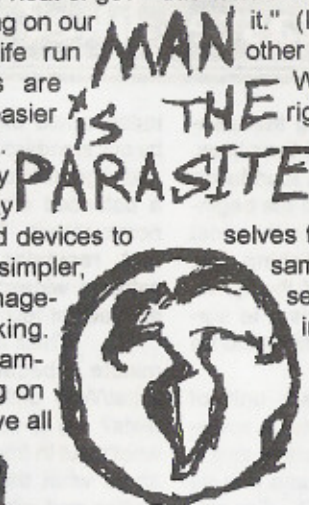
One point worthy of mention about the Spanish CNT shows the hypocrisy of the British government which called itself anti-fascist. Not only were Italian anti-fascist exiles interned on the Isle of Man but CNT members whose underground movement assisted British airmen, Jews and anti-fascists to escape through Spain to Britain were repaid at the end of the war when their names were handed over to Franco's secret police.

THE RUMP

By the end of WWII, the European syndicalist movement and the IWA was almost destroyed. The CNT was now an exile organisation. In 1951 the IWA held their first post-war congress in Toulouse. This time they were a much smaller organisation than the great movement which existed at their first congress. Nevertheless they still represented something. Delegates attended, though mostly representing very small organisations, from Cuba, Argentina, Spain, Sweden, France, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, Denmark,

of sustenance since the time of our "Existence" (We all have our own theories on how we got here). It is my opinion, fueled by feverishly observing every day life, that humankind has a history of letting it's pollution of greed shine through. All history has been a continuing battle for money, power, and an easier way of life. We have all heard of the many wars which plague our past, and we all feel the heat of governmental control resting on our shoulders...Why has life run this course? Humans are always looking for an easier way of doing things. Existing, if I may. They (We) have found a way to create machines and devices to make life and chores simpler, faster, and more manageable to our liking. Computers are an example! (Though I'm writing on one right now). You have all seen the rapid rise in computer popularity and production, it seems they have a new pentium out every two weeks. They are getting faster, and supposedly "Easier to use." Farming equipment gains speed and efficiency. I'm not bashing technology completely, for as many point out to me, technology comes up with new medicines and cures frequently, healing many people. I am, however, against the fact that we move on, settle, trash the place, and leave. I believe Agent Smith said it correctly in the Matrix, when he shared that humans were a "Virus." We breed,

and we fail to establish an equilibrium as do the rest of the creatures, and we put ourselves above the rest of the animals. Slaughtering cows, pigs, chickens, as if we had simply been placed to rule over them, and we sell them as if we were selling something we ourselves created and owned. Such is the idea of owning property. Some man walked in, and said, "I claim this land. I will charge money for it." (I.E. Century 21, and other Real Estate agents) Who gave anyone the right to place themselves upon the soil that had fed them, and declare themselves the owner, and on the same note, declare themselves a dictator, making rules millions of people were forced to follow? I believe some are too busy looking to the stars and space, awed by its wonder, meanwhile forgetting the fact that we have a planet under our feet that has tried its best to provide us with shelter and food, and we're soiling it without care. I see many folk who make fun and sneer at "Tree huggers" when they appear on the T.V., and even down gays and Other groups, while in the comfort of their home, their property. Have they not fueled the evidence stacked against them? Bravo, I say, Bravo. ~Brandon



I wonder what garbage tastes like?

There is something that people have to do everyday of their lives. Its, a necessity, a basis, a foundation for life as we know it. From the beginning of time it was and still is the most crucial element of establishing life, peace, and perpetuation of the world. Every living organism needs it to survive, and without it our world would be bleak and desolate.

Food is the basic unit of human necessity. Nutrition, sustenance, energy, vitamins, protein, amino acids, its what we as humans and as the earth's creatures NEED. For millions of years since the beginning of man, humans have scrounged, battled, and desperately searched for this precious commodity. A hunter with a spear chases screaming wild pigs through the woods his livelihood depending on each stab, each throw, and his families wellbeing relies on his embellished aim and emaculent skill.

But we live in the twentieth century! Running through the woods chasing a boar with a stick is no longer necessary. We no longer need the skills of the past. We have "The super-market".

Hundreds of years back our diet consisted of generally unrefined products or at least most of what we

today would consider "simple" foods by our standards. Our diet was defined and regulated only by the availability of a balanced diet and our socio-economic status. But today what defines and regulates our diet? Without extreme widespread poverty, scarcity, and lack of technology?

Think about that one, just for a minute because its important. What/Who defines and regulates our diets? Is it us? Or do we just eat what's put in front of us without thinking about what this food is doing to our bodies and what effects it has on the environment or other people around us? A junk food diet is easy to have, because junk is made readily available for us, if not pushed in our faces. I often ponder this question just because it seems so obvious yet so subversive. Why do I eat what I eat? Granted, I may be a Vegan but that is somewhat irrelevant in this discussion. The truth is the food we eat and the diets we sustain are ultimately controlled by monster conglomerates who's only motivation is profit. Junk food such as burgers, frenchfries, potato sticks, fried chicken, and cheese puffs are easy to manufacture and easy to sell using tactics and ads that utilize "movie stars", cartoon characters, big st-

THE BASIC IDEA

Its basic ideas revolve around organising all workers into the one big union, keeping control in the hands of the rank & file, and opposing all attempts to create a bureaucracy of unaccountable full-time officials. Unlike other unions their belief is that the union can be used not only to win reforms from the bosses but also to overthrow the capitalist system. They hold that most workers are not revolutionaries because the structure of their unions is such that it takes the initiative away from the rank & file. Their alternative is to organise all workers into the one big union in preparation for a revolutionary general strike.

They established their own international organisation with the founding of the International Workers Association in Berlin in 1922. Present at that conference were the Argentine Workers Regional Organisation FORA representing 200,000 members, the Industrial Workers of the World in Chile representing 20,000, the Union for Syndicalist Propaganda in Denmark with 600, the Free Workers Union of Germany FAUD with 120,000, National Workers Secretariat of the Netherlands representing 22,500, the Italian Syndicalist Union with 500,000, the General Confederation of Workers in Portugal with 150,000, the Swedish Workers Central Organisation SAC with 32,000, the Committee for the Defence of Revolutionary Syndicalism in France [a breakaway from the CGT] with 100,000, the Federation du Battiment from Paris representing 32,000. The Spanish CNT was unable to send delegates due to the fierce class struggle being waged in their country under the dictatorship of Primo de Rivera. They did, however, join the following year.

During the 1920s the IWA expanded. More unions and propaganda groups entered into dialogue with the IWA secretariat. They were from Mexico, Uruguay, Bulgaria, Poland, Japan, Australia, SouthAfrica, Paraguay and North Africa.

Syndicalist unions outside the IWA also existed in many countries such as the Brazilian Workers Regional Organisation and the Industrial Workers of the World in the USA (which soon spread to Canada, Sweden, Australia, South Africa, and Britain(1)). The influence of its methods, if not necessarily of its anarchist origins, was even seen in Ireland where the ITGWU throughout its existence, until it merged into SIPTU a few years ago, carried the letters OBU on its badge. This OBU refers to the IWW slogan of One Big Union. And let us



its strengths & weaknesses

SYNDICALISM is the largest organised tendency in the libertarian movement today. It has built large workers' unions, led major struggles, been the popular expression of anarchism in many countries. To understand the anarchist-communist view of syndicalism we have to look at its roots, its core beliefs and its record.

In the 1860s the modern socialist movement was beginning to take shape. The International Working Mens' Association, better known as the First International, was becoming a pole of attraction for militant workers. As the movement grew, points of agreement and of disagreement between the Marxists and the Anarchists about what socialism meant and how to achieve it were becoming clear. This led to the Marxists using less than democratic means to expel the anarchists.

In 1871 the Paris Commune came into being when the workers of Paris seized their city. When they were finally defeated seven thousand Communards were dead or about to be executed. A reign of terror against the Left swept Europe. The anarchists were driven underground in country after country. This did not auger well for a rapid growth of the movement. In response to the terror of the bosses, their shooting down of strikers and protesting peasants and their suppression of the anarchist movement a minority launched an armed campaign, known as propaganda by deed, and killed several kings, queens, aristocrats and senior politicians.

Though very understandable, this drove a further wedge between the bulk of the working class and the movement. Clandestine work became the norm in many countries. Mass work became increasingly difficult. The image of the madman with a bomb under his arm was born. The movement was making no significant gains.

By the turn of the century many anarchists were convinced that a new approach was needed. They called for a return to open and public militant activity among workers. The strategy they developed was syndicalism.

ogans, and prizes to lure you into believing that you need these products. If you really needed these products you would not need Michael Jordan to tell you, you would just go out and get them. Selling people crap they don't need is big business and the food market is no void where the hand of media does not extend to. It seems these "Big Businesses" are in charge of our diets. Think about it, what do you eat? Keep a log, and find out. I'm betting if you keep a log for a week you'd find out that, merger after merger, all together, your probably really purchasing from about 5-10 major companies. Frito-

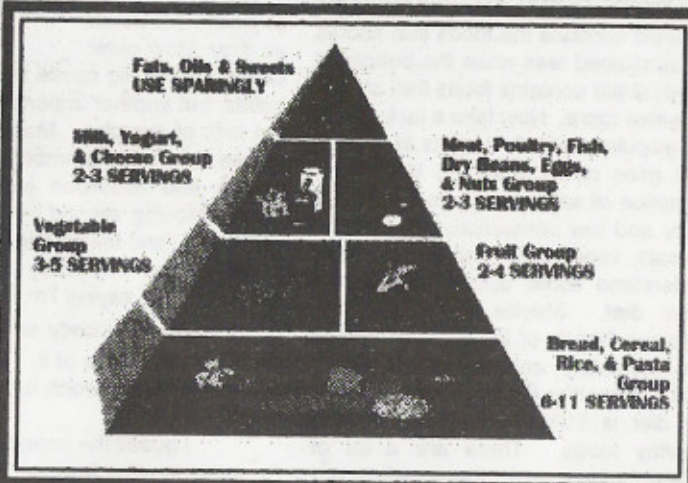
L a y ?
Nabisco?
Coca-Cola?
5-10 is not a lot of companies! Are you choosing to eat from these monster conglomerates because they are "super friendly, environmentally

safe, positive forces in making a better world" probably not. The reason we eat their products is because they are convenient! And because they tell us to. Each dollar we spend on these companies says to them "keep up the good work boys". Sure

there are companies out there that do not destroy the environment, and grow organic healthy foods, but they are not mainstream, and are generally more expensive. What we need is to make these companys more popular, and

more excessable to the general public. Other wise these monster companies that are selling us food we don't need will continue to dominate the market and feed our people junk.

If they did not feed us what would we do? Would we find a new diet? Would we just die of starvation? Just for example what if these companies got together and decided to only sell food that was nutritionally balanced and healthy for you? What would happen? All of our diets would change, we would all start eating healthy because junk food would be to hard to obtain and not worth our extra effort.



So either way its their choice, feed us well or feed us shit. They are in charge, they will make or break out diets.

Is this pyramid upside down, or are American eating habits?

But now that we see they are in charge, what kind of diet will they feed us? (Rhetorical question)

They own all the foods they have told us to like. Hell! They own ALL the foods! I would make the assumption that the popular diets consist of high sodium content, high sugar content, and high oil content. Take a look at a food pyramid some time.

Roughly 33% of all American men and 36% of all American women are considered obese.

You'll see that we are eating an UPSIDE DOWN diet. The top of the pyramid contains the foods that should be consumed less while the bottom of the pyramid contains foods that should be eaten more. Now take a look where the popular diet is? It starts at the top and goes down, meaning large consumption of salt, sugar, oils, meat and dairy and low consumption of breads, cereals, vegetables, and fruits. I can understand some discrepancy in the ideal diet. Maybe a fair balance between "foods of indulgence" which are unhealthy and productive foods that are healthy for you. But the popular diet is 80% junk food and 20% healthy foods. There are a lot of straightedges out there who are straightedge because they care about their bodies and want to take care of themselves mentally and physically, yet continue to eat garbage. Doesn't this defeat the purpose of not using drugs? I guess the mental aspect yes, food doesn't mentally affect you as severely as drugs, but food IS what effects your health. Despite a thousand health officials, FDA precautions and countless warnings, and even more personal symptoms, we seem to say "Fuck that! Where's my Cheetos?" Americans have an enormous obesity rate, and a heart disease rate to match. Roughly 33% of all American men and 36% of

all American women are considered obese (1). Since 1987 the number of Obese Americans has risen 3%!! And about 14% of children are obese which is a particular concern to doctors since (1) health habits are usually formed during childhood, and children who start out unhealthy face increased risk

of health problems, as they grow older.

Obviously the big cause here is eating habits, but another important reason is the lack of exercise. Modern conveniences and entertainments like video games and television just don't get people moving around. I guess for me being sXe, and taking care of my body mentally and physically go hand in hand. I'm not saying I'm "Mr. Healthy" but, I respect my body and I owe it to myself to take care of it. You only get one body, its not worth it to me to ruin it.

I guess the important question I'm trying to raise here is, "Why are we being fed this sludge?" I don't mean to sound extremist but honestly why are we being fed a horrible diet like a "Big Brother" spoon feeding his little 14 month old younger brother a mouth full of greasy crushed lays potato chips? Am I missing something? Are they trying to appeal to the "Fast-Food-Self-Indulgence-no-effort-and-evenless-thought" sort of mentality here? There are vending machines on every corner and every restaurant carries only coke a cola beverages. And with the introduction of "Free Delivery" it seems we have been inundated with so many new fast foods that will deliver pure

conservation should follow the example of the Worldlife Center in London. The Center plans to create a high-tech zoo with no animals. Visitors would observe animals in the wild via live satellite links with far off places like the Amazon rain forest, the Great Barrier reef, and Africa.(9)

What You Can Do

❖ Zoos are covered under the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA), which sets minimal housing and maintenance standards for captive animals. The AWA requires that all animal displays be licensed with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which must inspect zoos once a year. However, some zoos that have passed USDA inspections with flying colors have later been found by humane groups to have numerous violations. Educate yourself. Read *Beyond the Bars*, edited by Virginia McKenna, Will Travers, and Jonathan Wray. It is available from Thorson's Publishing Group in Rochester, VT.

❖ It is best not to patronize a zoo unless you are actively working to change its conditions. Avoid smaller, roadside zoos at all costs. If no one visits these substandard operations, they will be forced to close down.

❖ Start a "Zoocheck" program to build a strong case for implementing changes: Contact PETA for Zoocheck program materials and information on how to get started with your local zoo.

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This article was provided by the rad folks at PETA (People for the ethical treatment of animals)

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Norfolk, VA 23510

described animals in such terms as "funny-looking," "dirty," or "lazy." (7)

The purpose of most zoos'

One sanctuary that is home to rescued zoo animals reports seeing frequent signs of zoonosis

in animals brought to the sanctuary from zoos. Of chimpanzees, who bite their own limbs from captivity-induced stress, the manager says: "Their hands were unrecognizable from all the scar tissue." species from extinction

sounds like a noble goal, but zoo officials usually favor exotic or popular animals who draw crowds and publicity, and neglect less popular species. Most animals housed in zoos are not endangered, nor are they being prepared for release into natural habitats. It is nearly impossible to release captive-bred animals into the wild. A 1994 report by the World Society for the Protection of Animals showed that only 1,200 zoos out of 10,000 worldwide are registered for captive breeding and wildlife conservation. Only two percent of the world's threatened or endangered species are registered in breeding programs. (8) Those that are endangered may have their plight made worse by zoos' focus on crowd appeal. In his book *The Last Panda*, George Schaller, the scientific director of the Bronx Zoo, says zoos are actually contributing to the near-extinction of giant pandas by constantly shuttling the animals from one zoo to another for display. Inbreeding is also a problem among captive populations.

When Cute Little Babies Grow Up

Zoo babies are great crowd-

-pleasers, but what happens when babies grow up? Zoos often sell or kill animals who no longer attract visitors.

Deer, tigers, lions, and other animals

who breed often are sometimes sold to "game" farms where hunters pay for the "privilege" of killing them; some are killed for their meat and/or hides. Other "surplus" animals may be sold to smaller, more poorly run zoos or to laboratories for experiments.

Beyond Zoos

Ultimately, we will only save endangered species if we save their habitats and combat the reasons people kill them. Instead of supporting zoos, we should support groups like the International Primate Protection League, The Born Free Foundation,

The purpose of most zoos' research is to find ways to breed and maintain more animals in captivity.

the African Wildlife Foundation, and other groups that work to preserve habitats, not habits. We should help non-profit sanctuaries, like Primarily Primates and the Performing Animal Welfare Society, that rescue and care for exotic animals, but don't sell or breed them.

Zoos truly interested in raising awareness of wildlife and conser-

junk food to your door 24/7 in less than 30mins. Is this healthy? Physically? Mentally?

Results

But what are the results of this corporate fed diet? These corporations have flipped our food pyramid upside down and fed us nothing but the worst most nutritionally void foods in creation (not to mention all the new ones to come, lord knows a new junk food comes out every week). All the commercials and ads you see just intensify eating an unbalanced diet. Television shows about 80% junk food ads and maybe a health food ad every now and then. You don't have to be a genius to figure out that you don't need the junk food they are trying to sell you on tv. We are only motivated to continue eating upside down!

One of the obvious results are health problems. Heart disease, heart attacks, obesity, artery problems, and general mal nutrition resulting in a weak immune system and a general lack of energy- are all some of the serious health problems that eating an upside down diet can cause. The Number one Killer in America is cardiovascular disease (2). In 1991, heart and blood vessel diseases killed more than 923,000 Americans (2). More than two of every five Americans die of cardiovascular disease. As many as 50 million Americans have high blood pressure, the leading contributor to

heart disease (2). This is a clear indication and warning to our eating behaviors! We can see the warnings. In fact people we love have died from them, but still do we listen to their foreboding death sentence? No! Does it feel like these mega corporations are putting us on death row?

Another result is the basic fulfillment of "instant gratification". Fast food makes it easy and greasy to receive instant fulfillment and effortless purchase of something you didn't make yourself and an object only for your quick consumption. When we do this we become alienated from our consumption and have no realization of what we are eating and why we are eating it (besides the fact that we are hungry).

Here's a cheery thought, how would you like to live in a small pod and have all food materialize to you when you need it, all entertainment given so fully you have little or no desire to leave your pod EVER!? Maybe we could call the pod a "house" and all food could be "delivered" and all entertainment could shoot through wires into a box in your "house" so you would be entertained so fully you need not talk to anyone or even leave the house. No job! No responsibility? No car? Just you relaxing 24/7!! Order your junk food from the internet and then be entertained until your zombified into oblivion. Can we say ".com guy"? Maybe its time we asked the questionWHY?

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Zoos:

Pitiful Prisons

Despite their professed concern for animals, zoos remain more "collections" of interesting "items" than actual havens or simulated habitats. Zoos teach people that it is acceptable to keep animals in captivity, bored, cramped, lonely, and far from their natural homes.

Says Virginia McKenna, star of the classic movie *Born Free* and now an active campaigner in behalf of captive animals: "It is the sadness of zoos which haunts me. The purposeless existence of the animals. For the four hours we spend in a zoo, the animals spend four years, or fourteen, perhaps even longer -- if not in the same zoo then in others -- day and night; summer and winter. . . . This is not conservation and surely it is not education. No, it is 'entertainment.' Not comedy, however, but tragedy." (1)

Life Sentence. No Parole

Zoos range in size and quality from cageless parks to small roadside

menageries with concrete slabs and iron bars. The larger the zoo and the greater the number and variety of the animals it contains, the more it costs to provide quality care for the animals. Although more than 112 million people visit zoos in the United States and Canada every year, most zoos operate at a loss and must find ways to cut costs (which sometimes means selling animals) or add gimmicks that will attract visitors. Zoo officials often consider profits ahead of the animals' well-being. A former director of the Atlanta Zoo once remarked that he was "too far removed from the animals; they're the last thing I worry about with all the other problems." (2)

Animals suffer from more than neglect in some zoos. When Dunda, an African elephant, was transferred from the San Diego Zoo to the San Diego Wild Animal Park, she was chained, pulled to the ground, and beaten with ax handles for two days. One witness described the blows as "home run swings." Such abuse may be the norm. "You have to motivate them," says San Francisco zookeeper Paul Hunter of

elephants, "and the way you do that is by beating the hell out of them." (3)

Propagation, Not Education

Zoos claim to educate people and preserve species, but they frequently fall short on both counts. Most zoo enclosures are quite small, and labels provide little more information than the species' name, diet, and natural range. The

animals' normal behavior is seldom discussed, much less observed, because their natural needs are seldom met. Birds' wings may be clipped so they cannot fly, aquatic animals often have little water, and the many animals who naturally live in large herds or family groups are often kept alone or, at most, in pairs. Natural hunt-

ing and mating behaviors are virtually eliminated by regulated feeding and breeding regimens. The animals are closely confined, lack privacy, and have little opportunity for mental stimulation or physical exercise, resulting in abnormal and self-destructive behavior, called zoochosis.

A worldwide study of zoos conducted by the *Born Free*

Foundation revealed that zoochosis is rampant in confined animals around the globe. (4) Another study found that elephants spend 22 percent of their time engaging in abnormal behaviors, such as repeated head bobbing or biting cage bars, and bears spend about 30 percent of their time pacing, a sign of distress. (5)

One sanctuary that is home to rescued zoo animals reports seeing frequent signs of zoochosis in animals brought to the sanctuary from zoos. Of chimpanzees, who bite their own limbs from captivity-induced stress, the manager says: "Their hands were unrecognizable from all the scar tissue."

More than half the world's zoos "are still in bad conditions" and treating chimpanzees poorly, according to renowned chimpanzee expert Jane Goodall. (6)

As for education, zoo visitors usually spend only a few minutes at each display, seeking entertainment rather than enlightenment. A study of the zoo in Buffalo, N.Y., found that most people passed cages quickly, and

